

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of

Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's Rules)	
To Implement WRC-03 Regulations Applicable to)	WT Docket No. 05-
235		
Requirements for Operator Licenses in the)	
Amateur Radio Service)	

To: The Commission

Comments of Eric R. Ward
N0HHS Amateur Radio Operator

I, Eric R. Ward, an amateur radio operator granted call sign N0HHS, hereby respectfully submit my comments in response to the *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* 05-143 (the Notice) in the above-captioned docket.

I support the immediate elimination of proficiency in telegraphy using Morse code¹ from the requirements for qualification for an amateur radio license, as proposed in the Notice. The rationale for elimination of the requirement is clear, as laid out in the Notice and in several of the Petitions it addresses: the *Radio Regulations* of the International Telecommunications Union no longer require proficiency in Morse code, and the only reason cited

¹ See 47 C.F.R. § 97.503

previously² by the Commission for maintaining the Morse code requirement was the continued presence of the requirement in the *Radio Regulations*. Since such international requirement no longer exists (effective the WRC-03, in July, 2003), the sole remaining rationale for maintaining a Morse code requirement has been removed. Thus, any other argument for retaining the requirement is moot, and the Commission need no longer burden itself with further review of the issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric R. Ward
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July 28, 2003

² See FCC 99-412